

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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AmericanHort Floral Design Contest Winners Announced

Columbus, Ohio – Several florists today were named winners of the Cultivate'15 Floral Design Contest. The contest featured three categories: March Madness, Thanksgiving, and What's Fun to You? The contest was held in conjunction with the floral design sessions and workshops during Cultivate'15, July 11-14.

The Designer of the Year was Dee Conrad of Petals & Leaves in Columbus, Ohio. The first runner-up was Linda Boardman of Dietz Falls Florist in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; second runner-up was Sarah Shaffer of Petals & Leaves in Columbus, Ohio.

The winners in each category were:

Category 1: March Madness1st Place – Linda Boardman, Dietz Falls Florist, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio2nd Place – Kuminko Matsuura, Meadowsweet Flowers, Westerville, Ohio3rd Place – Dee Conrad, Petals & Leaves, Columbus, Ohio**Category 2: Thanksgiving**1st Place – Linda Boardman, Dietz Falls Florist, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio2nd Place – Dee Conrad, Petals & Leaves, Columbus, Ohio3rd Place – Kara Thompson, Breeewood Gardens, Garrettsville, Ohio**Category 3: What's Fun to You?**1st Place – Linda Boardman, Dietz Falls Florist, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio2nd Place – Sarah Shaffer, Petals & Leaves, Columbus, Ohio3rd Place – Dee Conrad, Petals & Leaves, Columbus, Ohio

Cultivate'15 attendees had the opportunity to vote for their favorite design. The People's Choice Award was presented to Linda Boardman of Dietz Falls Florist in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

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AmericanHort was formed in 2014 by the consolidation of the American Nursery & Landscape Association and OFA – The Association of Horticulture Professionals. With a combined history of 220+ years, AmericanHort supports nearly 16,000 member and affiliated businesses that include breeders, greenhouse and nursery growers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, researchers, manufacturers, and all of those who are part of the industry market chain. The horticulture industry's production, wholesale, retail, and landscape service components have annual sales of \$163 billion, and sustain over 1,150,000 full- and part-time jobs. Our mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. The association has offices in Columbus, Ohio for administration and member services, and in Washington, DC to facilitate government relations and research activities.